



# WISCONSIN WELLHEAD PROTECTION NEWS

Spring 2004

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## HAPPY SPRING!

Hi everyone. It's time for another issue of Wisconsin Wellhead Protection News. This issue contains a reminder of Drinking Water Week in May, identifies some new educational resources, provides an update on the delivery of source water assessments to municipal water supply systems, indicates that availability of a new fact sheet which addresses security issues for water supply systems and identifies source water protection resources from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Enjoy!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for a number of communities who are or have been involved in wellhead protection (WHP) planning to protect their water supply wells. Arena, Barneveld, Burlington, Butternut, Crivitz, Fairwater, Fall Creek, Johnson Creek and Waterloo have developed plans on their own or worked with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) staff on wellhead protection plans, ordinances or both. You are commended for being proactive in protecting your water supply.

Communities which have developed wellhead protection plans for new wells since the last newsletter include Algoma Sanitary District, Cameron, Chippewa Falls, Eagle, Gresham, Madison, New Lisbon, Rockland, Strum and Sun Prairie. In some cases, existing wells have been included in these plans as well. Hats off to these communities as well for recognizing the importance of wellhead protection. Keep up the good work!

The WDNR's wellhead protection website includes a listing of those communities who, according to our records, have adopted a plan for at least one of their wells. The list now includes over 200 communities. Check out the website at [dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/whp/communities.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/whp/communities.pdf). If you would like assistance from the WDNR in getting started, contact me by phone, email, regular mail or fax (see below).

You can also contact Ed Morse, Groundwater Technician for the Wisconsin Rural Water Association, at 920-648-7578 or [edmorse@charter.net](mailto:edmorse@charter.net). Ed works with small communities (less than 10,000) on wellhead protection planning.

Another option is to contact an engineering firm or a professional hydrogeologist to help develop a wellhead protection plan. Check your yellow pages for engineering firms or hydrogeologists in your area.

If you have ideas regarding topics or questions that could be addressed in future newsletters, contact me by phone (877-268-9355 toll free), by fax (608-267-7650), by email ([david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us)) or regular mail (Wisconsin DNR, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921).

Dave Lindorff, Editor

## **CELEBRATE DRINKING WATER WEEK!**

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has designated May 2-8, 2004 as Drinking Water Week. AWWA has a variety of Drinking Water Week resources available at [www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww](http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww), including ideas for celebrating the importance of our drinking water supplies. Here's a chance to toot your own horn about how your community protects its water resources.

## **WISCONSIN WATERS**

A valuable source of information on our important water resources in Wisconsin is on the WDNR Wisconsin Waters website. In 2003, the WDNR and a number of organizations celebrated the Year of Water in Wisconsin. As part of that effort, the Water Division's Communication and Education (CE) Team (of the WDNR) developed Web pages to provide staff and citizens with water-related information and teachers with water education activities.

Since most of the information on that site is still useful, the CE Water Team has updated it and renamed it Wisconsin Waters. Check out the information by going to:

[dnr.wi.gov/org/water/division/yow/index.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/division/yow/index.htm).

You'll find information on the Public Trust Doctrine, water challenges we face, a link to the Waters of Wisconsin Report, educational resources and much more.

## **GROUNDWATER IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**

The USGS Wisconsin District in collaboration with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey has constructed an educational website that focuses on the relation of groundwater to the Great Lakes. Even if you don't live in the Lake Michigan or Lake Superior basin, the site provides valuable information on understanding groundwater principles.

The website grows out of a recently completed study of groundwater conditions in southeastern Wisconsin along the shores of Lake Michigan. The address for the site is: [wi.water.usgs.gov/glpf/](http://wi.water.usgs.gov/glpf/)

The site is organized in two main parts. The first is a summary of the concepts that govern groundwater flow and groundwater/surface-water interactions. The second part includes details of a case study from southeast Wisconsin that attempts to describe the groundwater flow system and quantify the relation between groundwater and Lake Michigan.

The site contains a large number of figures that illustrate the concepts underlying regional groundwater flow and the application of those concepts to a setting influenced by heavy pumping from shallow and deep wells located near Lake Michigan.

The website should be helpful to educators, policy-makers, consultants, and all those interested in water-related environmental issues. In addition to sections on groundwater concepts and the case study from southeast Wisconsin, the site includes a discussion of implications of the case study and a list of reports available for more information.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS – THE END IS NEAR!**

As noted in the fall 2003 newsletter, the WDNR has been busy completing and hand delivering the source water assessments to each municipal water supply system. At this time, approximately 2/3 of the assessments have been delivered to municipal systems. The WDNR plans to have all the municipal system assessments delivered by the end of June. So if your community water supply system hasn't received its assessment yet, it will be coming soon.

A brief summary of each public water system's assessment will be placed on the internet. If your community has received its assessment, you can visit the WDNR source water assessment website at

[dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/swap/index.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/swap/index.htm) to see a short summary of your community's assessment.

As noted above, the WDNR is hand delivering the source water assessments to each of the municipal water supply systems. This is being done for two reasons. First, each assessment contains maps showing well locations and source water areas, considered to be sensitive information. To make sure the assessment gets to the appropriate water utility staff and to make sure that utility staff are aware of security issues related to well locations, WDNR staff are hand delivering each municipal assessment. For this reason, only a brief summary of each assessment has been placed on the WDNR's source water assessment website.

The second reason for hand delivering the assessment is that it gives the WDNR staff an opportunity to meet with water utility staff, to explain the assessment and recommendations and to encourage use of the assessment to take the next step - source water or wellhead protection - to protect its

water supply source. Each assessment provides the basic information needed for a wellhead protection plan except for the management or protection steps. The WDNR considers source water protection for groundwater systems to be the same as wellhead protection.

The susceptibility determination included in each source water assessment provides valuable information on the susceptibility (low susceptibility, moderate susceptibility or susceptible) of each well and the system as a whole where there is more than one well. By reviewing the assessment, a community can determine what are the most significant threats, if any, to its wells. This can guide your community in determining which steps might be appropriate to minimize any threats to your community's wells. In some cases, more information may be needed to evaluate possible options. The fall 2003 Wellhead Protection News ([dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/whp/2003fall.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/whp/2003fall.pdf)) included some options that your community can think about in deciding how to protect your water supply wells. See the article below titled Additional Protection Resources for more protection information.

If you haven't done so already, you are encouraged to review your community's source water assessment to see if there is information that can be used to assist your ongoing efforts to protect your water supply. The final decisions on protection activities are up to your community, but the WDNR is available to help as needed. The WDNR will continue to encourage and support protection efforts by local communities.

The WDNR is also working on finalizing the assessments for the 11,000 plus other-than-municipal and noncommunity systems. The WDNR plans to finish all the assessments by the end of 2004.

If you have questions about source water assessments, contact Jeff Helmuth, WDNR Source Water Assessment Program Coordinator, at (608) 266-5234 or [jeffrey.helmuth@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:jeffrey.helmuth@dnr.state.wi.us).

## **ADDITIONAL PROTECTION RESOURCES**

The EPA has a number of resources available to assist in moving from the source water assessment to protection. Most are available through the EPAs Source Water Protection website at [www.epa.gov/safewater/protect](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect). Among the available information are the following materials:

- “Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection.” This is an online searchable catalog ([www.epa.gov/watershedfunding](http://www.epa.gov/watershedfunding)) maintained by EPAs Office of Water to assist in identifying federal financial assistance sources to fund a variety of watershed protection projects.
- “Funding for Source Water Protection Funding” (document # EPA 816-K-03-004) provides information in a matrix format about various federal funding opportunities for different protection activities. This is available online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/pdfs/guide\\_swp\\_swp\\_funding\\_matrix.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/pdfs/guide_swp_swp_funding_matrix.pdf).
- “Consider the Source: A Pocket Guide to Protecting Your Drinking Water” (pub. # EPA 816-K-02-002). This is a pocket-sized document that discusses the source water assessment program and describes possible management practices for a variety of potential contaminant sources. This is available online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/swpocket.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/swpocket.html).
- “EPAs Annotated Bibliography of Source Water Protection Materials on CD” (pub. # EPA 816-F-03-010).

The last three publications can be obtained free of charge by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or by sending an email to [hotline\\_sdwa@epa.gov](mailto:hotline_sdwa@epa.gov).

## **SECURITY IN WATER SUPPLY PLANNING FACT SHEET**

Source water assessments aren't the only documents which can contain sensitive locational data. This is also of concern in comprehensive plans which many local units of government are now working on or have completed. Water utilities are placed in a difficult position of balancing the provision of locational information for its infrastructure (e. g. wells, pumping stations, distribution systems, etc.) in publicly available documents versus maintaining the security of this sensitive information.

To address this dilemma, the WDNR recently published a fact sheet to guide communities in addressing security concerns regarding locational information in comprehensive plans. The fact sheet discusses options for communities to deal with this issue and identifies helpful sources of information for further assistance.



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The publication, "Water Supply System Information and Maps in Community Comprehensive Plans - Addressing Security Concerns", can be found on the WDNR website at:

[dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/SS\\_988\\_2003.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/SS_988_2003.pdf). Printed copies can be obtained from Sally Kefer at 608-266-0833 or [sally.kefer@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:sally.kefer@dnr.state.wi.us).

#### **NEW WDNR WEBSITE ADDRESS**

The WDNR now has a new website address. Formerly, the link was [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us). Now it's [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov); you can also use [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov). You'll notice that the WDNR website links in this newsletter now use the new website URL. The WDNR's new wellhead protection homepage is at [dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/wellhead.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/wellhead.htm).

The Wisconsin Wellhead Protection News is a publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater. Its purpose is to provide current information on wellhead protection topics. It is published in the spring and fall and as needed.

Comments, questions, suggestions and articles are welcome and can be sent to: David Lindorff, Editor, Wisconsin Wellhead Protection Newsletter, Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921  
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PUBL DG-054 (04/2004)

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